



**Montana Fish,
Wildlife & Parks**

**PO Box 200701 Helena, MT 59620-0701
(406) 444-9939**

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST

PART I. PURPOSE OF AND NEED FOR ACTION

1. Project Title: Missoula Trap & Skeet Club (MT&SC)

2. Type of Proposed Action:

- Repair safety fences separating Skeet and Trap fields
- Install stairs to trap houses
- Remove and replace sidewalks
- Repair paths and pads on fields 1-5

3. Location Affected by Proposed Action:

The MT&SC is located west of Missoula along Highway 10 West, between Highway 10 and Interstate 90, about ½ mile west of the intersection of Interstate 90 and highway 93 North in Missoula. (See figure 1)

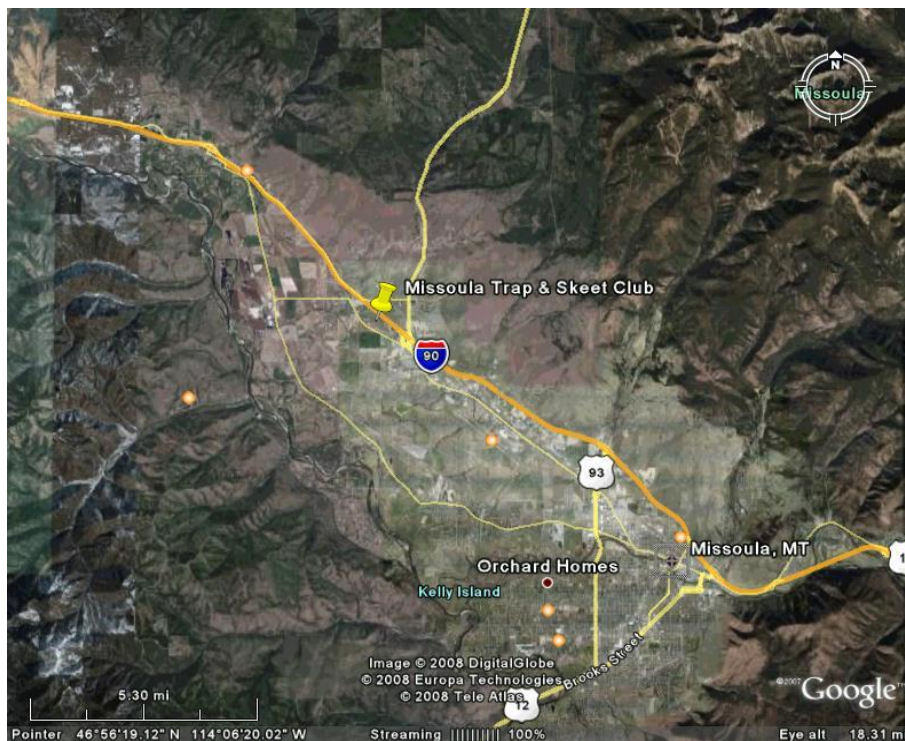


Figure 1 – Missoula Trap & Skeet Club Map with surrounding area



Figure 2 – Missoula Trap & Skeet Club Layout

4. Agency Authority for the Proposed Action: MCA 87-1-276 through 87-1-279 (Legislative established policies and procedures for the establishment and improvement of shooting ranges) and MCA 87-2-105 (Departmental authority to expend funds to provide training in the safe handling and use of firearms and safe hunting practices). The Montana Legislature has authorized funding for the establishment of a Shooting Range Development Program providing financial assistance for the development of shooting ranges. Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) has responsibility for the administration of the program, including the necessary guidelines and procedures governing applications for funding assistance under the program.

To be eligible for grant assistance, a private shooting club or a private organization:

(a)(i) shall accept in its membership any person who holds or is eligible to hold a Montana hunting license and who pays club or organization membership fees;

- (ii) may not limit the number of members;*
- (iii) may charge a membership fee not greater than the per-member share of the club's or organization's reasonable cost of provision of services, including establishment, improvement, and maintenance of shooting facilities and other membership services; and*
- (iv) shall offer members occasional guest privileges at no cost to the member or invited guest and shall make a reasonable effort to hold a public sight-in day each September, when the general public may use the shooting range for a day-use fee or at no cost; or*
- (b) shall admit the general public for a reasonable day-use fee.*

5. Need for the Action(s):

- Deteriorating fencing between the Skeet and Trap areas that provides a barrier in the case of accidental discharge are in need of replacement.
- Trap houses 3 & 4 have a steep embankment presenting a hazard to workers and volunteers attempting to access the house from the fields.
- Currently handicapped access to the Skeet, Trap, and Sporting Clays areas is limited by the width of the paths, and a lack of adequately sized turning areas and shooting stations to accommodate a wheel chair. The concrete in these areas is deteriorating rapidly and does not meet ADA standards for ease of access. This includes the sidewalk on the west end of the complex and the paths and pads on fields 1-5.

6. Objectives for the Action(s):

- Replace the safety fence separating the Skeet area from the Trap area.
- Build a concrete stairway down the embankment to provide safe access to trap houses 3 & 4.
- Remove and replace concrete sidewalks and shooting pads leading to the 5 Skeet/Trap overlay fields to improve safety and provide for handicapped access. This area also accommodates the 5 Stand Sporting Clays facility so all of our major sports will have fully handicapped accessible fields .

7. Project Size: estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected:

The club owns 72 acres for the range. The area of the proposed project is a much smaller area within that acreage.

8. Affected Environment (A brief description of the affected area of the proposed project):

The area affected is the existing MT&SC. MT&SC was incorporated in 1928 and received title to the original 48.02 acres of the range in 1966. The range(s) have been in the current location since 1963 after moving from their former location at Fort Missoula. An additional 24 acres was added later making the total acreage approximately 52 acres. The range is located between interstate 90 and old highway 10, which is essentially light industrial and commercial, although it is not zoned (See Figure 1). The MT&SC consists of 18 trap fields, 5 skeet fields, one 5-stand sporting clays field and 1 international (Olympic) trap field. The facilities also include a 2,000 square foot clubhouse, a repair shop, a target shed, a shower house and 60 recreational vehicle parking spaces.

9. Description of Project:

- a. **Repair the safety fence that current separates the Skeet fields from the Trap fields.** The fence is 50 feet long and 12 feet high and must have sufficient supports to withstand a significant wind load. Pilings will be pounded 12 feet into the soil to support the structure which will be made of wood.

- b. **Install stairs to the trap house on fields 3 and 4** A concrete stairway will be constructed down an embankment on these two trap houses to provide safe access.
- c. **Remove and replace the sidewalk on the West end of the complex.** The sidewalk is currently 48 inches wide and runs 560 feet along the entire length of the 5 fields proposed for replacement. It currently does not meet ADA requirements. The sidewalk width will be increased to 60 inches and curb and parking blocks will be installed to prevent vehicles from encroaching on the sidewalk. Handicapped access ramps will be installed next to the handicapped parking area and at the entrance to each of the 5 fields.
- d. **Repair paths and pads on fields 1 -5.** Five fields currently have a combination of Trap Fans and Skeet paths and pads. We currently do not have any fields in this area that meets ADA standards. In addition these concrete pads and paths were installed 30 years ago and tree roots, settling, and the ravages of the environment have made them uneven resulting in a trip hazard and making handicapped access more difficult. We are proposing to refurbish the concrete on these five fields. The fields are side by side running to the west of the club house down a slope. Due to the slope each field has its own unique needs and can be considered a separate project for funding purposes.

10. List any Other Local, State, or Federal Agency that has Overlapping or Additional Jurisdiction:
None

(a) Permits, Licenses and/or Authorizations:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Permit</u>	<u>Date Filed/#</u>
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N/A

Funding:

<u>Agency Name</u>	<u>Funding Amount</u>
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks	\$44,011.00

11. Affiliations, Cooperating Agencies, User Groups and/or Supporting Groups: The Missoula Trap & Skeet Club (MT&SC) is a private club, and anyone may become a member. Non-members are allowed to use the facilities on a trial basis and members are allowed to bring guests. The MT&SC shooting fields and clubhouse are available to and have been used by organizations such as Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 4H, Boy Scouts, Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever at no charge.

12. History of the Planning and Scoping Process, and Any Public Involvement: Proposed range improvements and safety enhancements had been discussed within the membership of the club and with the associated project vendors and contractors. The project has been announced in newsletters to the WMFGA membership and has been listed on the Montana Shooting Sports Foundation website at <http://www.marbut.com/wmfga2/>. No additional public involvement was deemed necessary.

13. List of Agencies Consulted/Contacted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

14. Names, Address and Phone Number of Project Sponsor:

Mark McMurray, 19225 Arabian Lane, Frenchtown, MT 59834, (406) 626-4703

15. Other Pertinent Information:

Shooting range applications require the participant's governing body to approve by resolution its submission of applications for shooting range-funding assistance. Resolution Date: April 18, 2011.

PART II. IDENTIFICATION OF THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVES

The proposed alternative A, alternative B and the no action alternative were considered.

- **Alternative A (Proposed Alternative)** is as described in Part I, paragraph 10 (Description of Project). Remove and replace safety fence & sidewalks, repair pads & paths, and install stairs.
- **Alternative B (No Action Alternative)** Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Shooting Range Development Grant money would be denied and the area will remain as an active shooting range without improvements proposed.

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented: Only the proposed alternative and the no action alternative were considered. There were no other alternatives that were deemed reasonably available, nor prudent. Neither the proposed alternative nor the no action alternative would have significant negative environmental or potentially negative consequences.

- There are beneficial consequences to acceptance of the **Proposed Alternative (A)** Remove and replace safety fence & sidewalks, repair pads & paths, and install stairs.

The **No Action Alternative (B)** would be to not fund the improvements and the range will continue on with present conditions. Land use would remain the same.

Describe any Alternatives considered and eliminated from Detailed Study:

NONE

List and explain proposed mitigating measures (stipulations): None

PART III. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Abbreviated Checklist – The degree and intensity determines extent of Environmental Review. An abbreviated checklist may be used for those projects that are not complex, controversial, or are not in environmental sensitive areas.

Table 1. Potential impact on physical environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Unique, endangered, fragile, or limited environmental resources				X		
2. Terrestrial or aquatic life and/or habitats				X		
3. Introduction of new species into an area				X		
4. Vegetation cover, quantity & quality				X		
5. Water quality, quantity & distribution (surface or groundwater)				X		
6. Existing water right or reservation				X		
7. Geology & soil quality, stability & moisture				X		
8. Air quality or objectionable odors				X		
9. Historical & archaeological sites				X		#9
10. Demands on environmental resources of land, water, air & energy				X		
11. Aesthetics				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

9. This project uses no federal funds nor does it take place on state owned or controlled property; therefore, the Federal 106 Regulations and the State Antiques Act do not apply.

Table 2. Potential impacts on human environment.

Will the proposed action result in potential impacts to:	Unknown	Potentially Significant	Minor	None	Can Be Mitigated	Comments Below
1. Social structures and cultural diversity				X		
2. Changes in existing public benefits provided by wildlife populations and/or habitat				X		
3. Local and state tax base and tax revenue				X		
4. Agricultural production				X		
5. Human health				X		
6. Quantity & distribution of community & personal income				X		
7. Access to & quality of recreational activities				X		
8. Locally adopted environmental plans & goals (ordinances)				X		
9. Distribution & density of population and housing				X		
10. Demands for government services				X		
11. Industrial and/or commercial activity				X		

Comments (A description of potentially significant, or unknown, impacts and potential alternatives for mitigation must be provided.)

PART IV. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

All of the pertinent or potential impacts of the project have been reviewed, discussed, and analyzed. None of the project reviewed were complex, controversial, or located in an environmentally sensitive area. The projects being implemented are already on an existing range/altere d areas that together with the insignificant environmental effects of the proposed action, indicates that this should be considered the final version of the environmental assessment. There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative. The 80 year history of the Missoula Trap and Skeet Club providing shooting opportunities to its members and the public indicates support for the proposed alternative. Therefore, Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks should approve the proposed alternative (A) for the improvements outlined in Part I, Para. 9.

PART V. ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Does the proposed action involve potential risks or adverse effects, which are uncertain but extremely harmful if they were to occur? NO

Does the proposed action have impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant? This proposed action has no impacts that are individually minor, but cumulatively significant or potentially significant. Cumulative impacts have been assessed considering any incremental impact of the proposed action when they are combined with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, and no significant impacts or substantially controversial issues were found. There are no extreme hazards created with this project and there are no conflicts with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan.

Recommendation and justification concerning preparation of EIS:

There are no significant environmental or economic impacts associated with the proposed alternative; therefore an EIS is not required.

PART VI. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Individuals or groups contributing to, or commenting on, this EA:

Missoula Trap & Skeet Club (MT&SC)
MT Fish Wildlife and Parks

EA prepared by: GENE R. HICKMAN

MS Wildlife Management
Ecological Assessments
Helena, MT 59602

Date Completed: June 15, 2011

Describe public involvement, if any:

This draft EA will be advertised on FWP's web site and through a legal ad in the **Missoulian** newspaper announcing a public comment period. A press release will also announce the project and the public comment period will end on August 1, 2011.